

The Baldons and Nuneham Courtenay Newsletter



April 2014

RICHARD BARNETT: A personal tribute

Richard left home on Friday 24th January and never returned: he had been suffering, for several months, from acute depression and was under psychiatric care. Shortly before his disappearance he expressed his intention to take his life, by drowning in the Thames. A suicide note was found in his garage. His body was recovered from the river 5 weeks later and his funeral took place on the 27th March.



I first met Richard and Lucy in 1997 when, I think newly arrived in the village, they came to a party celebrating the opening of Caddy's studio. Richard and I quickly became friends: I was attracted by his eccentricity, his somewhat wacky sense of humour, and a shared love of music and poetry. Subsequently, over the years, we did quite a few things together: long walks, singing in Benson Choral Society, several sailing expeditions – on one, memorably, we were escorted, off the Sussex coast, by a flotilla of dolphins, weaving, diving and leaping around the boat: a special moment. He also helped me on various projects: re-pointing the house and riveting my boat and in all these activities he was unfailingly good company.

Richard made an indelible contribution to village life, notably on the stage. I think his comic genius was first revealed to us in his participation in a short sketch that Penny Dudson put on as part of the Millennium celebrations, but later we were treated to more substantial fare: as an ugly sister (with a fellow doctor, Ron Hewitt) in Cinderella and then in various parts in Oh What A Lovely War! – the macabre humour of which greatly appealed to him – and much else. However his contribution was not limited to the stage: he was also a sidesman and a bell ringer at St Peter's. After retirement from the Headington Practice, he helped Phylis Slaney at the Berinsfield Day Centre where his kindness and rapport won him many friends.

However, for me it was in his passion for poetry that one got close to the core of Richard. He was particularly fond of 20th century poetry, especial Owen, Sassoon and Eliot: also Blake and Clare from the 19th. He once, when it was his turn to choose a book, got the men's book club – a body not known for its literary aspirations – to read the Waste Land. Although we all struggled to understand it, Richard displayed a subliminal affinity. He also read well, and no village concert was complete without Richard reading poetry. For the most recent, last May, we had long discussions on what would be appropriate. In the end he chose John Clare, whose innocence, love of nature and sense of being an outsider Richard had a deep sympathy.

Richard was a complex man, whose character blended extrovert and introvert elements. When I first met him, the extrovert was in the ascendant: at the end he became wholly introverted, and we cannot imagine the depths of his despair. I shall always remember him: he was a good man and a good friend.

Laurence Attewill

FROM THE VICAR, REVD PAUL CAWTHORNE

Faith and doubt: rejoicing in life's mysteries

Lent has always been a time for looking deeper, into ourselves and into our existence. In our often cynical world where defensiveness can be seen as a virtue and getting an advantage over someone is seen as commercially desirable, it's no wonder we can end up weary and confused, with honour and trust often being suppressed and devalued to the point where we feel out of line for prizing such traditional virtues. The ancients knew this of course, it's not just a modern phenomenon, and had a range of words to describe it from anomie to restlessness.

It's the next stage on from Christmas when even hardened cynics get a glimpse of the underlying mystery of existence - something we sense in the wonder of Christmas, the spirit of innocence in nativity plays in school, the season of goodwill when warm feelings and food give a glow, the yearning for peace and promise of future hope.....then we return to our normal lives.

Through Lent we are encouraged to think of Jesus' hard life as he travelled life's road full of knocks, periods of despair, nagging doubts, knowing that only by continuing the journey could he find true fulfilment. The journey led him to the garden of Gethsemane where he fretted that even his friends could not stay awake to support him, to embracing doubt at its darkest (Father, if it be possible let this cup pass from me; my God, why hast thou forsaken me?). Such doubts are a kind of humility and profoundly humane. Spiritual masters of the past like Meister Eckhardt celebrated it, a humble Norfolk vicar centuries ago wrote a classic text called 'The Cloud of Unknowing'.

The Lenten way invites us to embrace our own doubts, to see them as part of life's experience, to be carried with us as we journey. Since the Enlightenment we seem sometimes to have gone backwards in our understanding of how integral doubt is to life – it's been seen too much as a challenge to certainty by the overly dogmatic, a reason to give up the sense of journey prematurely by those who forget it is entirely natural. Doubt is taken as a conclusive argument against by that strange reversed spiritual pride of some who forget the history of science and importance of uncertainty. I could go on with the dissection, but what I am trying to emphasise is that doubt is natural and part of the normal spiritual journey. Even the writers of the psalms used to shout at God sometimes (If you are there why did You let this happen to me; why do the unrighteous seem to prosper?; why do people forget You when life is good; when are You going to rescue us, etc). In Lent if we dare we can really explore what part all this plays.

Before we can know the joy of Easter, we need to appreciate what happened on the Friday. A schoolchild said to me once "I know why it's called Good Friday even though it's sad Jesus died. It's because he was prepared to love us enough to die". Gosh, I thought, that is a mystery beyond human comprehension. We will never be able to understand it fully, nor should we expect to. As we learn to 'manage' our lives through the sporadic chaos of teenage experiment and the adult searches for excitement and security, we can lose the humility needed to appreciate that child's insight.

If we dare to see how doubt is embraced and given fresh meaning in Jesus' lonely progress of Holy Week from Palm Sunday to the cross, then we just may be ready to glimpse more clearly the unknowable mystery of what happened on that Easter morning when the women came weeping to the tomb and left confused but elated. It took the disciples months and years to dare to believe and make sense of what had happened to Jesus (remember Doubting Thomas' words 'My Lord and my God'). To make sense of how love had not been nailed into submission but given the freedom to live for ever - a wonderful spiritual paradox which makes doubt seem merely two-dimensional, flat. Do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God, the prophet Micah counselled. May the Easter mystery of resurrected divine love illuminate our minds and inspire our hearts.

Paul

The Revd Paul Cawthorne is Team vicar for The Baldons, Berinsfield and Drayton St Leonard: e-mail: bbdparishoffice@rocketmail.com and tel: 01865 340460.



St. George's Day
Afternoon Tea at The Baldons Village Hall
4pm Wednesday 23rd April 2014

St. George's Day is a good chance for friends and neighbours to get together. This year as before we shall be getting together with folks from Nuneham, the Baldons and some old friends for a traditional afternoon tea and some light entertainment. It will be a great opportunity to catch up on local news and chat about spring and summer plans. Plans are already under way for another delightful afternoon. So look out those spring outfits and come along prepared to wave the flag and enjoy the company.

To book a place phone Phylis on 01865 343275 or email phylis@stonehelm.co.uk



Ardington School of Crafts

Traditional and Contemporary

Short courses with craftspeople

www.ardingtonschoolofcrafts.com

Ardington, nr Wantage, Oxfordshire, OX12 8PN. 01235 833433

HANDS ON FOR HANDBELLS!

**Our fundraising event 'Hands on for Handbells' will be on
Saturday 10th May 2 - 4
at the Baldons Village Hall
with stalls and games galore.**



**Followed by an evening concert showcasing lots of local
talent from 7 pm:
tickets and full line-up coming mid-April**

**Please contact Denice on denice.cullen@yahoo.co.uk or
07955084693 for information and all important offers of help!**

**Long Wittenham Pre-School Family Easter Egg Hunt,
Sunday 6th April, 11am-2pm, The Plough, Long Wittenham**

The Long Wittenham Pre-School Family Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Sunday 6th April, 11am-2pm, at The Plough, Long Wittenham (by kind permission of Kim and Liam). Starting and finishing in The Plough garden, the Egg Hunt clues will take you down to Acklings field where we hold our forest school) and back again. In addition to the egg hunt, there will be face painting and an egg and spoon race, as well as other Easter activities and a prize for the best fancy dress. Food is available from The Plough or bring along your own picnic. £2.50 per child, adults are free.

BALDONS VILLAGE HALL NEWS

The Baldons Village Hall is for everyone's use: To book, please contact Ali or Darren on: 01865 340264 or dbaber@rm.com

Berinsfield Voluntary Day Centre

COFFEE MORNING

10.30am -12noon Friday 25th April 2014

*At the Adult Learning Centre, Wimblestraw Road, Berinsfield
Where is it? Behind the Abbeywoods Academy OX10 7LZ*

Come along and enjoy a cup of coffee and a piece of cake whilst meeting the members, volunteers and staff of the Day Centre and Berinsfield Information Centre.

Bric-a-Brac - - - - Cake Stall - - - - Raffle

*For more information phone Phylis on 01865 343275
or email phylis@stonehelm.co.uk*



Do you wish that your oven looked as good as new?

Does the thought of cleaning your oven fill you with dread?

Have you been putting it off for a rainy day?

Do you hate the thought of scrubbing for hours and still not being happy with the results?

Then call today to have your oven, aga, hob, extractor or microwave professionally cleaned.

Call now to book your oven valet.

01865 326130 07711 445190

E: tyronesmith@ovenwizards.com

W: www.ovenwizards.com

AN OVERLOOKED ECOSYSTEM

Spring, a wonderful time for wildlife gardens, it seems that every day brings new findings, green shoots and buds, the days are getting longer, and it's getting warm. Prepare for endless the excitement from now on if you garden using wildlife gardening principles!

A key task as we leave winter and move to spring is to make sure you have cleaned out your birdboxes so that they are good to go for new nesting birds. Often the bedding from the previous season, and from roosting birds over winter that also use these boxes, is still in there. Nesting birds don't always clear out old bedding that can be infested with mites that could affect breeding success as they often overwhelm the new hatchlings. So give them a helping hand by clearing out the bedding so they start again.

It happens every year, when one spring morning, suddenly the bees all appear. That is when I'm really sure that spring is finally here. Bees and pollinators will thrive in your wildlife garden if you've planted early nectar rich plants. Often bees are weak after the long winter, and unless they can re-energize quickly, can sadly die off, so early flowering plants like Crocuses are key. As too are late flowering things like Ivy etc it has to be said.

The first butterflies often appear on the first warm days, often waking in warm sheds thinking it is warm outside to. Often it isn't truly warm enough to sustain them but keep your eyes peeled, it's all about to happen.

What's happening now in your spring wildlife garden? Why not share your experience? This wildlife gardening lark sustains itself by sharing experiences, and I learn as much from readers' feedback as hopefully you do from my scribblings.

Happy gardening
Stuart Mabbutt
Wildlife Gardening Specialist
01865 747243

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER

Items for May 2014 newsletter

by 16th April please

Any villager is welcome to send items for publication in the newsletter - this can be anything from articles, poems or pictures, to publicising your event. In addition, if you have an image you would like us to consider for the cover, do send it in!

If you would like to receive a reminder e-mail each month for newsletter contributions please let me know.

Natasha Eliot: tashaandjames@btopenworld.com. Alternatively I can be contacted on 343478 (PLEASE NOTE NEW NUMBER) or at Baldon House East, Marsh Baldon. For advertising queries, please contact Sheila Harris on: sheilaharris778@yahoo.co.uk or on 340403.

BALDONS PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Planning applications

The Council had three applications to consider in the past few weeks. Two, namely Thurlfield Cottage, Pebble Hill for a replacement garage and Glen Ellyn for replacement of a garage with a single storey side extension, have been supported by the Parish Council and await SODC's decision.

The third, an application for a house on the infill plot off the west side of the Green, was objected to by the Council because it was considered too large and inappropriate as an infilling development in the Conservation Area and Green Belt. The Council was aware of the concerns of villagers and the wish to protect gaps in the landscape round the Green, and also of the previous application for an infill development that was refused by SODC last summer on similar grounds. The application has since been withdrawn.

Neighbourhood Plan

The Parish Council is considering how best to reflect the views of the village community in planning decisions. One option is to prepare a Neighbourhood Plan. A Neighbourhood Plan is different and has a diverse scope to the Parish Plan that we did a few years ago which focused primarily on facilities and amenities. A Neighbourhood Plan can be a plan to express local options for future growth, architectural and environmental design. Once it is adopted at a referendum, whilst it has to conform with SODC's Core Strategy and the NPPF it does become a material consideration with the Planners, giving some real planning power to the village.

The council will be seeking views of villagers about whether this is a road to pursue as it will require time and effort. There will be a circular to households giving more information and seeking your views and a preliminary discussion at the Annual Parish meeting.

Parking outside the School

Following the installation of the oak posts, which appear to have been welcomed as an improvement in protecting the Green, the council will look to repair some of the damage to the surface and fill in pot holes when the weather dries out later in the spring.

Village Green

As usual when we approach spring we think about gardening and lawn mowing and again we must ask villagers round the Green not to throw grass cuttings or other garden waste on to the green. It happens every year! As SODC provides garden waste bins these are a much better way of disposing of waste that cannot be composted. Small amounts of grass cuttings spread very thinly are not a problem; clumps of cuttings just left where thrown do not disperse and damage the underlying grass which farmers cut for hay.

Dog Waste

We continue to have a problem with dog waste on the Green. It is encouraging that more people carry plastic bags and pick up their dogs' poo, and we have always asked that it is taken home for disposal. The Council has up to now been reluctant to provide waste bins as we have not been convinced that that dog walkers, some of whom may not be

villagers, will go out of their way to use them. However some dog walkers are increasingly dumping the filled bags on the edges of the Green, or near the ditches, or at the base of trees. This is offensive as the bags will not rot down and are a health hazard and it should not be the responsibility of Parish Councillors or other villagers to pick them up and dispose of them.

The Council has therefore agreed to provide two dog waste bins on the Green which we hope to have in the next few weeks. There is already a waste bin that can be used for dog poo outside the Seven Stars.

We would encourage all dog walkers to continue to use bags and pick up and take home but if you see dog walkers throwing their bags on the Green please remind them how unhygienic and unsociable this is for others, and particularly children who play on the Green.

Thames Water –Flooding and drainage issues

Although the Baldons has not suffered anything like the problems of flooding this winter as many other communities, residents in Baldon Lane and at the eastern end of the Green have suffered long standing problems from the periodic, and all too frequent, failure of the two pumping stations after heavy rain with sewage on the road and in gardens. As a result of complaints by residents and the Council and in response to our most recent correspondence with Thames Water, OFWAT and the Consumer Council for Water we received a reply which stated that

‘Baldon Lane floods because of surface water such as rain water, entering our system. This is often hard to fix as it is caused by many factors outside of our control like infiltration, misconnections and private drainage. We need to work with private land owners, the Environment Agency and Local Authority to tackle the problems and we are trying to secure funding to investigate the performance of the pumping station on Baldon Lane... to ensure it is working to the best of its ability.

Following subsequent conversations with an officer from Thames Water we have been told verbally that funding has been allocated to allow some work to be done on the Baldon Lane pumping station in 2014. We have asked for confirmation of what and when.

One thing we as villagers can help with, however, is to ensure that rain water from roofs etc. is discharged via drainpipes into soak a ways and not connected to the sewers as this will help reduce some of the pressures on the system.

Thames Water will also consider our application from residents in Toot Baldon for installation of mains drainage and have supplied an application form. This will require considerable work to make the case and the council will be happy to discuss how residents wish to progress this at the Annual Parishes meeting in April.

SODC Governance review

The Parish Council have now been informed that it is SODC’s intention to recommend redrawing the boundary between Marsh Baldon and Nuneham Courtenay so that land and properties west of the A4074 transfer to Nuneham Courtenay parish as a logical rationalisation along a manmade boundary. This is subject to local consultation but the Baldons Parish Council will not be objecting.

Dates of next meetings

Annual meeting of the Parishes of Marsh Baldon and Toot Baldon, Tuesday 15th April 7.30 pm Village Hall This is the village meeting which apart from the usual annual reports from the Council can discuss other issues villagers want to raise with us and possible discussion on Toot Baldon mains drainage (see above) and planning issues in the Baldons.

Parish Council AGM Tuesday 13th May 7.30pm Village Hall

This is the meeting where we deal with Election of officers as well as parish business.

FROM DISTRICT COUNCILLOR ELIZABETH GILLESPIE

I am sure everyone will have read about the SHMA (Strategic Housing Market Appraisal) figures just published. Currently the South Oxfordshire Core Strategy has identified the need for 11,657 houses by 2027. The SHMA has identified the need for 4043 houses over and above, making a total of approximately 16,000 houses. At SODC we are considering various options on place allocations.

Whilst I have my personal view on the reality of these figures and the eventual actual build it has certainly given oxygen to those who have been guarding their terrain for development, in our case the City Council and Magdalen College. Despite all the articles latterly published in local papers, building on the Green Belt is not in the City's Local Plan and SODC remains adamant in its rejection.

I continue to be very involved with the SEP (Strategic Economic Partnership) and do my all to ensure that our rural needs are in the submissions. I also continually ensure the voice of the Green Belt is heard.

LEADER. We are in discussions with neighbouring Councils and plan to join forces with one of them, increasing our boundaries and our chances of a successful bid for these European funds. It has become evident that funds are going to be available sooner than initially indicated and we are therefore very anxious to receive expressions of interest in order that we can demonstrate need the moment the offer is in.

HISTORIC GUIDED WALKS

By popular demand on **Saturday 26th April**, two historic guided walks have been arranged, which will be led by Judy Dewey (local historian and Museum curator).

At 11am there will be a **Castle history walk**, followed by a **Town history walk** at 2.30pm. Both walks, lasting about 2 hours, start at the Museum with a charge of £5 for each walk. *[unsuitable for dogs!]*

So, why not immerse yourself in the town's fascinating local history for the whole day and also visit the new 'Siege & Strife: Wallingford & War', and 'At Home with the Queen of Crime' exhibitions at the Museum.

Just come along or contact Judy Dewey for details tel. 01491- 651127



THE ROMAN ARMY FACT AND FICTION

April's talk to The Wallingford Historical and Archaeological Society (TWHAS) will be by Dr John Smith. He will present 'The Roman Army Fact and Fiction'.

John Smith is an archaeologist who has studied the Roman Army for over 20 years and excavated and worked at Rockbourne and Bignor Roman Villas. This is a living history presentation, reviewing the historical and archaeological evidence for the Roman Army, in the Empire and South-West England. John will present Roman equipment and artefacts (some from the Camerton Hoard) and discuss their practicality, construction and uses, and debunk some popular and media portrayals of the Roman Army.

This talk will be held on Friday 11th April, 7.45 for 8pm at Wallingford Town Hall.

Visitors (£3) are most welcome.



FROM OUR MP, JOHN HOWELL

The issue of NHS England's proposals for a database of patient records has caused concern for some people. I believe this is largely due to the way in which it has been explained. As a result implementation has been delayed until the autumn to allow more time to build understanding of the benefits of using the information, what safeguards are in place, and how people can opt out if they choose. I support this delay and also support the initiative. The programme, which will consolidate NHS patient records in a secure environment called the Health and Social Care Information Centre (HSCIC), will bring real benefits to patients. One of the main aims of the new system is to allow the NHS to make better use of the routine information collected when you visit your doctor. It is important that the NHS can use this information to get a complete picture of what is happening across health and social care and to plan services according to what works best. Patient information is already used extensively by the NHS but I believe that making better use of this information will help to improve the quality of care and enable more thorough research.

However, I want to assure you that the HSCIC is committed, and legally bound, to the very highest standards of privacy and confidentiality to ensure that confidential information is protected at all times. Access to information is strictly controlled and only the minimum amount of information required will be used. In most cases, researchers can carry out their studies using information that does not identify a patient. Only researchers who have obtained a patient's permission or who have been granted special approval are allowed to access identifiable data.

For more information my website is regularly updated and offers information on my work both in Westminster and in the constituency. The address is www.johnhowellmp.com In addition, if you would like to subscribe to my free e-newsletter please e mail me at: john.howell@oxfordshireconservatives.com. You can also follow me on twitter @[@johnhowellmp](https://twitter.com/johnhowellmp) or on Facebook www.facebook.com/john.howellmp



BALDON FEAST
The Great Village Festival for
Nuneham Courtenay, Toot and Marsh Baldon
2pm Saturday 16th August 2014



We are looking for responsible Captains to take charge of certain departments

Please give this request your personal attention!

Without help of this kind makes the running of this event difficult and diminishes the enjoyment that we all have at this magnificent village festival. The following personnel are needed.

1. Captain of the North Car Park - on the day

You will be required to acquire a small team of about four or five, direct the traffic into neat rows and direct the public in the right direction to the Feast.

2. Photographer - on the day

You will be required to take photographs of all the stalls and features. Also of the bands, dancers and crowds. These will be used on the website and to advertise next year's event.

3. Public Relations Officer - before the event.

You will be required to contact various businesses for the purpose of sponsorship and to be generally helpful to public regarding enquiries and advertising.

4. Raffle Supervisor - before and on the day

You will be required to acquire a team of helpers for the day. You will also need to contact villagers to obtain prizes before the event. Set up a display on the day.

5. Waste Disposal Captain - on the day

You will be required to acquire a small team of about four to oversee the removal of rubbish from the event area to the skip.

6. Program Captain - on the day

You will be required to acquire a team of helpers for the day to hand out programs and collect any voluntary donations.

All the above positions are vital for the event to function properly. If you can help it will be very much appreciated. Complete instructions will be given on how to perform these tasks. And should you wish, you will also have the option of becoming part of the Baldon Feast Committee. Please contact me.

Ralph Slaney - Baldon Feast Organizer on behalf of The Baldons Parish Council
Acorns, 18 The Croft, Marsh Baldon, Oxford. OX44 9LN
01865 343275 ralph@baldonfeast.org.uk

NUNEHAM COURTENAY PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

1 Meeting on 4 March 2014

The Parish Council met on 4 March. SODC councillor John Cotton attended and gave us a briefing on various issues and answered a number of questions. Key points from the meeting are:

- A report on housing needs in Oxfordshire has now been published and proposes significant development across the County (at a far higher rate than has been delivered in recent years). This will inevitably cause pressure to develop on Green Belt land, including Grenoble Road.
- The recently announced City Deal will see development at Culham Science Park. The authorities do not expect these to impact on Nuneham Courtenay.
- The need to pick up on drainage issues around the Parish and to update maps including looking at ownerships and responsibilities.
- Signage. Signage for the Playing Field was approved and the way-finding/rules signs on the Estate were reviewed. The latter will allow for the designs of the proposed signs to be sent to Savills for their further action. We noted, with thanks, the Seven Stars' response to a request to reduce the proliferation of signs at the south end of the village.
- Whilst the Parish Council is happy to take up issues on the Estate it was noted that tenants should, ideally, raise any issues directly with Savills in the first instance.
- Littering in the Parish is an issue but SODC has recently cleared up along the A4074. This, and other possible ideas for improving the north entrance to the village, have led to us to postpone the planned village clean-up.
- The Village Plan Steering Group continues to meet and has reviewed the shop questionnaires with the owner of the garage.
- The Playing Field is likely to be re-fenced and gated in the next month. A positive meeting has been held between the Sports and Playing Field Association and Oxfordshire Playing Fields Association to discuss funding of appropriate play equipment.
- We approved the purchase and rental of a phone line, internet connection and wireless router (to be installed in the Village Hall) which would help support the Good Neighbour scheme and provide benefit to the users of the Hall;
- We finalised the Clerk's job description and advert.
- We noted that the peacocks that are roosting in the village can now be moved and that a new home is being found for them.
- The 300th anniversary of the birth of Capability Brown falls in 2016. As the Estate is one of his last landscape designs the Parish Council is supportive of celebrating this event as part of a group of interested parties. This will be discussed at future meetings.
- There is a need for a number of Action Plans following on from recent power cuts, heavy rains etc. It is proposed to discuss these at the Annual Parish Meeting in April.

2 Minerals and Waste Plan

The County is now consulting on its revised proposals. The reading of the documents, and initial response to queries raised, indicates that the County has taken a step back from where it got to in its proposals last time. The main points are:

- The plan proposes the policies concerning mineral extraction and managing waste from now up until 2030. It is therefore a significant policy document.
- The amount of mineral extraction needed annually has been revised downwards following consideration of recent usage reports.
- The strategy of identifying priority areas for extraction in the plan period has been dropped.
- The approach in the new Plan is to identify broad areas of search in which gravel occurs. This re-instates most of the areas included in the early stages of the previous consultation process (including land in Nuneham Courtenay, Sandford, Drayton St Leonard and the like).
- Sets the factors by which a planning application for gravel extraction in an area would be considered.
- There will be no further documents that seek to define the sites.
- There should be a balancing of the amount of gravel extraction between West and South Oxfordshire with future sites being located close to the areas of demand in the County (note most of the expected development in the County is in the south, the City and Bicester).
- The County has to identify supplies for at least 8 years of need. They currently have around seven years, with some other sites going through planning currently. It appears that, if these current applications are approved that this might give the reserves estimated as needed until 2031 – but this needs clarification.

Concerned at the prospect of a gravel extraction site on your doorstep? What can you do?

- Read the draft documents (these are available online – the Parish Council can help you access these).
- Let the Parish Council know of your concerns or thoughts – we are keen to know what you think.
- Submit your own responses directly to Oxfordshire County Council.
- Talk to us about how you might frame a response.

What has the Parish Council done/what is the Parish Council doing?

- Reviewed the documentation.
- Prepared an initial briefing document for councillors.
- Raising queries with OCC.
- Discussing the proposals and responses with other Parish Councils.
- Preparing a response that:
 - Looks at the overall needs for minerals;
 - Queries whether there is a need to identify further sites at this stage; and

- Re-states concerns at the proposals to include sites in this area within the area of search.
- Looking to instigate further analysis of the archaeological and natural environment in the area.

The consultation ends on 7 April 2014. Details of the proposals can be found at <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/minerals-and-waste-core-strategy> or by contacting us.

3 Planning

Brewer's Garage. At the time of writing SODC is consulting on the variation of a condition on the approval to build houses on the garage site. This is NOT a re-consultation on the proposal to develop the site (nor the other application to change the use of the showroom), but on how the approved development meets the requirements of low carbon generation. The proposal is to use air to air heat pumps. The consultation period ends on 2 April. Copies of the plans can be accessed online or by contacting Colin George below. The application reference is **P14/S0453/FUL**

4 Parish Clerk

The post is now being advertised with a requirement for applications to be submitted by 17 April 2014. If you are interested then please contact us.

5 Annual Parish Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 7pm on Tuesday 29th April 2014 in Nuneham Courtenay Village Hall. Everyone is welcome. We will provide light refreshments and snacks. We will not only review the last year, and look ahead to the year to come, but hope to discuss the need for Action Plans to deal with various issues of concern and we'd like your thoughts, ideas and engagement.

6 Contacting the Parish Council

Councillors: Frank Casey, Sascha Collen, Suzanne Deakin, Colin George, Jasminder Love.

Contact. Colin George (Chair and acting clerk)
 nunehampc@yahoo.co.uk 01865 343767
 www.nunehampc.webs.com

NUNEHAM COURTENAY VILLAGE HALL NEWS

Bingo!

Easter Bingo will be on Friday April 25th. Doors open at 7:30 for refreshments. Eyes down 8pm. Come and find out what great prizes we have in store for you!
 And a big thank you to all our regular supporters and donors!



SUNDAY SCHOOL IN THE BALDONS

Sunday school runs on the third Sunday of the month, during the Holy Communion service at St Peter's, Marsh Baldon. We have a mixture of stories, craft and activities for children age 3-8 based around the Christian faith. We welcome all newcomers! Please do bring your child / children along.

LENT GROUP: MONDAYS AT 7.30PM

Continuing our series looking at issues we face every day and how having a faith influences the choices we make.

31 March: Court House, Toot Baldon

7 April: Keeper's Cottage, Baldon Lane, Marsh Baldon.

Please feel free to drop in for any of the weeks or to find out more contact Jennifer Morton on 343302; or email:- jennifer@morton8.co.uk

INHERITANCE: Riding Lights Passion Play for 2014, to be performed in Dorchester Abbey on Saturday 12th April at 7.30pm

On a dusty road leading to Jerusalem, a woman stumbles towards her judgement. Just weeks later, Jesus will take the same road, leading to the cross. In Capernaum, the town they both call home, they are rejected. In the temple where they worship, they are condemned. The synagogue leader plots to destroy them both.

Inheritance weaves the strands of the biblical Passion into a dramatic new narrative. It evokes the community where Jesus lived, the people who knew him best, the powers that brought him to execution. And, in the shadow of the cross, it makes space for some of the women who Jesus stands alongside, sharing in their suffering.

Echoing through time, it renews our expectations of the kingdom of heaven and who might share its inheritance.

Written by Bridget Foreman, Inheritance is a communal experience of theatre and worship. The performance provides an opportunity to reflect on Christ's Passion and, space for the audience to make their own response at the foot of the Cross. The performance lasts one hour, without an interval. Refreshments will be served beforehand and doors open at 6.45pm.

Suitable for ages 12+

Tickets: £5 and £4 (under 16)

Box Office: 0333 666 3366 or follow the link on the Abbey website <http://www.dorchester-abbey.org.uk/>

There is no booking fee for online bookings, when tickets are picked up on the door. For telephone bookings, or when tickets are posted, then fees will apply.

CHRISTIANITY: AN EXPLORER'S GUIDE

You are invited a discussion with Marcus Braybrooke of his new book *Christianity: An Explorer's Guide*, led by Canon David Winter, Former Head of BBC Religious Broadcasting and chaired by Canon Sue Booy, at the Abbey Guest House, Dorchester-on-Thames on Monday 28th April 2014 at 7.30 p.m. Followed by light refreshments.

Christianity: An Explorer's Guide gives a comprehensive and compassionate over-view of Christianity. It is an ideal survey for the enquirer who wants to learn about Christianity. The book will also give Christians a deeper understanding of their faith and of the fascinating history of the church. The book is available in paperback from on-line booksellers and as an e-book. Copies of the book will be available at the special price of £10.00

GOOD FRIDAY & EASTER THROUGH OTHER EYES: Tuesday 15th April

Rev Dr Marcus Braybrooke, will give the April Janaway Lecture, looking at how the different perspectives of the three individual Abrahamic faiths may enrich our understanding of this pivotal time in history. After the talk Marcus will take questions.

Following this there will be complimentary refreshments accompanied by wine or a soft drink. The talk will start at 7:30 pm in St Helen's Church, Benson.

Tickets: £7.00 (students and school children £5.00) are available from Derry's Den in Benson or by calling 01491 200737/838713.

Organised by Benson PCC in aid of St Helen's Church Funds.

VISIT TO TEWKESBURY

The Friends of Dorchester Abbey have organised a visit to Tewkesbury, on Monday 12 May 2014: The coach will leave from the Bridge End car park in Dorchester at 9.00am.

On the way to Tewkesbury, a stop will be made at the beautiful ruins of Hailes Abbey.

We should arrive in Tewkesbury around mid-day, which will give everyone ample time to have lunch and explore the perfectly preserved Medieval town, perhaps by following the heritage trail or taking a boat trip on the river, before a Guided Tour of Tewkesbury Abbey at 3.00pm.

The coach will leave Tewkesbury at 4.45pm and traffic permitting we should arrive back in Dorchester between 6.30 and 7.00pm. A map of the town and other information will be sent to you the week before the visit.

Cost: £25 per person for Friends of Dorchester Abbey / £27 per person for non-Friends of the Abbey. This includes the coach and the guided tour of Tewkesbury Abbey.

NB People who are not members of the National Trust or English Heritage will have to pay for entrance to Hailes Abbey, a maximum of £4 depending upon numbers.

If you would like to come, please send a cheque payable to 'The Friends of Dorchester Abbey', to: Mrs Yvonne Lawden, 9 Queens Close, Dorchester-on-Thames, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 7LR, by Sunday 13th April. Please note: you will not be sent tickets or a receipt. If you have any queries please phone Yvonne Lawden on 01865 340465 or e-mail: yvonne.lawden@virgin.net

SERVICES FOR APRIL 2014

6 th April	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon
13 th April	4.00pm <i>please note time</i>	Palm Sunday Walk <i>followed by tea</i>	Toot to Marsh Baldon
Monday 14 th April	7.00pm	Evening Service for Holy Week	Toot Baldon
Tuesday 15 th April	7.00pm	Evening Service for Holy Week	Berinsfield
Wed 16 th April	7.00pm	Evening Service for Holy Week	Drayton St Leonard
Thurs 17 th April	6.30pm	Maundy Thursday Supper with Communion and stripping the Altar	Dorchester Abbey
Friday 18 th April	10.00am	Good Friday Devotion	Marsh Baldon
	1- 3 pm	Reflection for Good Friday	Dorchester Abbey
20 th April	9.30am	Easter Communion	Marsh Baldon
27 th April	8.30am	Said Communion	Marsh Baldon
	9.30am	One4All	Marsh Baldon
4 th May	9.30am	Holy Communion	Toot Baldon

SIDESDUTY

	Marsh	Toot
30 th March	9.30am Graham Hobbins	
6 th April		9.30am Ann Druce
13 th April		4.00pm Ian Gillespie
18 th April	10.00am Sonia Hobbins	
20 th April	9.30am Stephen Dance	
27 th April	9.30am John Mason	

FLOWERS

Marsh Toot

LENT – NO FLOWERS

20th April Help please to decorate the churches for Easter. Please contact Veronica Sandilands (vsandilands@btinternet.com) or Jane Brook (343457)



EASTER LILIES

If you would like to purchase an Easter Lily in memory of someone, please contact **Debbie Dance**: d.dance@oxfordpreservation.org.uk or 341323.

Flowers are £2.50 a stem and will decorate St. Peter's Marsh Baldon and St. Lawrence's Toot Baldon.

Names will be recorded in a Remembrance Book to be on display in the church.

FOR SALE – GOOD QUALITY UPRIGHT PIANO



For more information, please contact Rena Barclay on 343853 or rena@renabarclayinteriors.co.uk



EASTER CRAFT AFTERNOON

Wednesday April 16th
3.45pm at Berinsfield Library

All Welcome

Children to be accompanied by an adult Please



Here to help

join in ● explore ● discover ● log on



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